

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 28, 2006**

Members Present: Morris, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Lardizzzone, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Timberman, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Ennis, Magner and Newstadt

Staff Present: Davila

Guests: Dean Reid (Veterans Home Administrator), Tom Daws (VVA), Dave Gillan and Frank Davidson (KWVA), Dave White (US DOL), Bernhard Greenfield, and Debra May

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Morris opened the meeting by reporting that there had been quite a few articles in the newspapers about the progress of the Veterans Home. At the last meeting he indicated that they would be sending a letter to request a joint meeting of the Commission and the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to discuss legislative issues, but no response yet.

Mr. Reid reported that the Veterans Home is on target and that at the Veterans Home Partnering Meeting it was reported that they are 47% into the construction timeline. The maintenance supervisor, Angel Aguilar, came on board in February, he is an Air Force veteran, currently in the Reserves, and has a lot of construction experience. Mr. Reid reported that they conducted interviews for the Director of Nursing position and will possibly make a decision by next week. Mr. Reid reported that he is part of a committee that is working on an admissions package for the entrance criteria and that should be ready to present to the Steering Committee by July.

Mr. Gillan asked about a letter the Commission directed the Chairman to write to the Governor in support of HB 129. Chairman Morris indicated that the letter had been sent to the Governor, as well as other officials, but there had been no response to date. Mr. Gillan requested a copy of the letter.

**MOTION BY THOMPSON TO ACCEPT FEBRUARY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,  
SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Davila reported that they are moving ahead on the Funeral Directors Interment Scheduling (FDIS) program and the system should go live for a test run sometime in July. They are laying fiber optics at both the Northern and Southern Cemeteries to bring in the new phone system and computer lines. He is waiting to hear back from the Department of Veterans Affairs to finalize the construction at the Northern Cemetery. Mr. Davila discussed some of the project details. Commissioner Harden thanked Mr. Davila for the Cemetery and VSO reports.

## **COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Carroll reported that they have a speaker lined up for the Memorial Day Service at the Bridge on May 30, 2006.

## **FINANCE AND LOGISTICS**

No report.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Commissioner Carroll reported that as of March 24, 2006, the amount in the Veterans Home fund was \$159,869.49. He referred to the Steering Committee Meeting Minutes as to the details on how the money is being utilized. Chairman Morris and Mr. Davila spoke about a fundraising letter sent out.

## **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Commissioner Thompson announced that he was collecting all the Nursing home questionnaires and will prepare a summary for the Veterans Affairs Committee when Chairman Morris is able to secure a date for the meeting. Chairman Morris reported on recent legislation.

## **PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that they will be conducting interviews for the Conservation Tech II position at the Northern Cemetery on April 6, 2006. They will be hiring for two full-time positions and one casual/seasonal position.

## **MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS**

Commissioner Wasson read a letter requesting donations and support for a memorial in honor and memory of all Korean War veterans who served and died from Sussex County. The memorial will be dedicated on May 29, 2006, at the Town Hall in Georgetown.

## **HOME DEDICATION**

Commissioner Harden reported that no time has yet been set for the Veterans Home dedication and Mr. Davila discussed some of the details.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No report.

## **BY-LAWS**

No report.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Endres (40 & 8) – Reported that he has been working with J.J. Jones at the Southern Cemetery to plan the Flag Day Ceremony. He has conducted two nursing home interviews.

Lank (MOWW) – Reported that they are going to have a tour of Ft. Miles on April 22, 2006. MOWW region III has established a very strong relationship with the Pershing Rifles.

Carroll (MOPH) – MOPH's National Service Officer training is currently underway in Nashville, TN. There is a cadet in the JROTC program at Mt. Pleasant High School who has been recognized for saving another cadet from drowning and they plan on presenting her with a plaque. Commissioner Carroll announced that he knows an individual who is giving away an electric hospital bed and to let him know if you are interested.

Lardizzone (DAV) – They recently had their DAV District IV meeting. He was appointed as the new National Executive Committeeman (NEC) effective August 15, 2006, for two years. The new DAV van was purchased and will be arriving in Dover on July 19, 2006. The DAV "Day at the Blue Rocks" will be July 30, 2006, at 1:30 pm, tickets will be \$9 and \$1 will go to DAV Department of Delaware as a fundraiser. Contact him at (302) 697-9061 if you would like tickets.

Thompson (MCL) – The MCL lost one of their Past Commandants, George McPhee. The MCL and American Legion united for the viewing and cemetery ceremonies.

Kitson (VFW) – On April 9-12, the Adjutant, Quartermaster, and Senior Vice will be in Las Vegas for their AQ conference. April 15, 2006, is the Department Commander Ladies Auxiliary President's Testimonial at the Sheraton. During April 17-26, 2006, many of our senior staff members will be in Germany for the Eastern States Conference.

Harden (WAVES) – They had their election of officers at their last meeting and they discussed the upcoming Patient Carnival at the VA Hospital on May 6, 2006.

Morris (American Legion) – They hosted the National Commander's visit last month. The American Legion feels very strongly about the flag amendment they are targeting for the country. Chairman Morris wanted to thank Maj. Tom Kelley for the flag display he donated to the Commission.

Ret Maj. Kelley requested permission to pass out information concerning the Newark Parade.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Timberman pointed out that the flag holes at the gravesites are becoming filled in and needed to be cleaned out.

## **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Harden added that she was not able to complete her nursing home surveys because of the inspections and licensing that is going on. Commissioner Thompson responded by saying that we had enough surveys filled out.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**      **April 25, 2006 (11:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:**                      **Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**